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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 6 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT French Preparations for Possible Withdrawal
in Tonkin

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1. There is no indication that the French are planning to withdraw from North Vietnam. However, certain preparations are currently being made with a view to evacuation of this area:
 - a. The main evacuation beach head would be the Diem Dien (106-34, 20-33)-Dong Chau (106-34, 20-25) area.¹ The evacuation route would be via Nam Dinh and Thai Binh. The Red River, which is wide enough and deep enough to permit the movement of tanks and trucks, would be used to supplement the roads to reach Nam Dinh from Hanoi. Spare parts stockpiles are now being established at Nam Dinh.
 - b. Repairs were begun on a Nam Dinh-Bui Chu (106-19, 20-18) road in December 1951. This road may be used as a supplementary evacuation route.
 - c. The French have also established storehouses for ammunition, tires, and gasoline in the hills near Do Son (106-47, 20-42). Since December 1951 most of the material arriving at Haiphong has been sent to Do Son.²

1. Comment. French reserve forces consisting of four mobile regiments are stationed in this area.
2. Comment. Do Son might be used as a supplementary evacuation beach head.

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